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THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN MARTIN COUNTY CONTINUES SURVEILLANCE FOR HEPATITIS A AND CONFIRMS TWO ADDITIONAL CASES



The Health Department encourages vaccination to prevent hepatitis A

Contact:

Renay Rouse Renay.Rouse@FLHealth.gov 772-631-6008

Martin County, FL – The Florida Department of Health has confirmed two additional cases of hepatitis A in the community bringing the case count to 22 in Martin County. An investigation is underway to determine travel history, close contacts and possible exposures to hepatitis A.

Vaccinate to Prevent the Spread of Hepatitis A:

The Health Department in Martin County is urging good handwashing and vaccination to stop the spread of hepatitis A in the community.

The hepatitis A vaccine is available in the community via healthcare providers and local pharmacies. The Florida Department of Health in Martin County offers free hepatitis A vaccinations for uninsured, underinsured and at-risk adults (ages 19 and older). Appointments are available by calling: 772-221-4000 and pressing option 4 for Clinic Services/Appointments.

In addition, the Florida Department of Health is working in partnership with the Martin County Sheriff's office and provided more than 150 hepatitis A vaccinations to inmates at the Martin County Jail.

Hepatitis A in Florida

Statewide surveillance data for hepatitis A is available here:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/surveillance-data/index.html>

General Information:

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable liver disease primarily spread by direct or indirect person to person contact. While normally not fatal, persons with chronic disease, compromised immune systems and the elderly are more likely to experience a severe illness, leading to liver failure and possible death.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of hepatitis A, including fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, diarrhea, clay colored bowel movements, joint pain and jaundice (yellow skin/eyes) should contact their healthcare provider immediately for evaluation and testing.

Since January 2018 there have been more than 1,700 confirmed cases of Hepatitis A statewide. The Florida Department of Health considers a community "high risk" when the confirmed number of cases reaches 5. Martin County reached high risk status with 5 confirmed cases as of Monday, April 1.

Additional Resources:

The Florida Department of Health has launched an information line, email box and a website to address general questions about Hepatitis A.

- **Hepatitis A, Information Line:**
1-844-CALL-DOH (1-844-225-5364) available Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- **Website:** www.Floridahealth.gov/hepa
- **Email questions:** HepA@flhealth.gov

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@GoHealthyMartin](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.MartinCountyHealth.com

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